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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Three hundred and thirty-nine on the 4th March and again the same number on the 24th June 1953."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Sir, the sanctioned strength of the Headquarters Hospital is only 180, and there are in-patients double that number. There is great congestion there. May I ask what the Government propose to do in this matter, and when they will increase the sanctioned bed-strength? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have stated more than once on the floor of this House that the number of in-patients treated in most of the hospitals is much more than the sanctioned bed-strength of the hospitals. From time to time, considering the need for increase in the bed-strength and the availability of funds, the bed-strength in hospitals is increased and additional staff is sanctioned."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Is it a fact, Sir, that in-patients are made to lie on verandahs, and they are not given sufficient bedding, etc.? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Patients want to get admission into the hospital and receive some treatment. They do not mind where they sleep."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, is leprosy the major achievement of the Cuddalore hospital? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" In South Arcot there are plenty of leprosy cases, Sir."

*Standing Labour Committee meeting at Delhi.*

10 a.m. * 244 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether the Madras Government sent any representative to the Standing Labour Committee meeting held at Delhi on 27th and 28th July 1953; and if so, what was the stand taken by the Madras Government through their representative on the question of paying involuntary unemployment allowance to the workers and the enactment of a Central Shop and Establishment Act? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes Sir. Sri J. M. Lobo Prabhu, I.C.S., Secretary, Industries, Labour and Co-operation Department represented Madras Government at the meeting.

On the question of payment of compensation for involuntary unemployment this Government's representative suggested at the meeting that this Government should be consulted before implementing the scheme agreed upon by the employers' and workers' representatives.

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On the question of the Central legislation for shops and commercial establishments our representative suggested among other things that the more favourable provisions in the existing Acts should be retained."

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" Is it a fact that the representative sent by the Government of Madras opposed, in the meeting, the payment of involuntary unemployment allowance to the workers and also the immediate enactment of a Central Shop and Establishment Act? If so, may I request the Government to give a clear directive to their representative at least hereafter before the representative attends such meetings?"

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, I am afraid I do not have the information the hon. Member is giving just now. In any case, I may tell him that when we send our representatives we coach them sufficiently. But, sometimes, certain subjects come up during the discussion on which they may not have any hint. In such cases, they have to say they will have to consult the Government before agreeing to anything that may arise suddenly."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" தொழிலாளிகளுக்கு வேலை இல்லாத காலத்தில் உபகாரச் சம்பளம் கொடுக்கும் யோசனையை எதிர்த்து சென்னை சர்க்கார் ஆபீசர் ஒருவர் மாநாட்டில் சொன்னார். காரணம் என்ன என்பது மந்திரிக்குத் தெரியுமா ?"

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I am not aware of the information given by the hon. Member. I may add that my information is to the contrary."

Sri C. RAJAM RAMASAMI :—" Sir, may I know whether this Officer, Mr. Lobo Prabhu has been given special permission to speak anywhere and everywhere?"

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Every Officer has his own personality and we may have to cultivate a little tolerance."

Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Even though the answer has been given by the Hon. Chief Minister, we are not able to understand it aright as we have not heard the question put by the hon. Member."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" We did not hear the question. Let the hon. Member repeat his question, Sir."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Probably, there was some defect in the mike."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" முக்கூட்டுப் பிரச்னை விவாதத்தில் குறிப்பாக இப்பிரச்னை கேட்கப்பட்டது என்பது சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரியுமல்லவா ? அப்படியானால் இது சம்பந்தமாக உத்தியோகஸ்தருக்கு முன்கூட்டியே சொல்லி அனுப்பவில்லையா ?"

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THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I have already said that the Government had given sufficient and necessary instructions to their representative.'

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" இந்த மாநாட்டுக்கு வந்த அதிகாரி தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு எவ்வளவு உபகாரச் சம்பளம் கொடுக்கலாம் என்று அபிப்பிராயம் கூறினார் ? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I have just now answered that this Government's representative suggested that this Government should be consulted before implementing the scheme agreed upon by the employers' and workers' representatives."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" This is a specific and important point relating to the payment of involuntary unemployment allowance. On that point, may I know what was the brief given to the Government's representative? This is a specific point which has been evaded."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" As I said, the agenda is there. But sometimes, new developments take place which our Secretary or representative may not be able to answer without sufficient instruction from the Government. This is one such occasion."

SRI M. PALANIANDI :—" மின்சார வெட்டின் காரணமாக இங்கு நடந்த ஒரு கூட்டத்தில் அதே ஆபீசர் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு உபகாரச் சம்பளம் கொடுக்கக்கூடாது என்று பேசியுள்ளார். அப்படி தெரிந்திருந்தும் ஏன் அவரை டெல்லிக்கு அரசாங்கம் அனுப்பவேண்டும் ? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, I must make a distinction between an Officer speaking on behalf of the Government and an Officer speaking in his individual capacity. I am not aware of the information which my friend Mr. Palaniandi is now giving. Even if it were true, I hope my hon. Friend will agree that every individual has a right to express his view provided he is not authorized on behalf of the Government to make that statement, or express that view."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—"அந்த மாநாட்டின் நடவடிக்கைகள் பிரசுரமாகி இருக்கின்றன. பிரசுரத்தைப் பார்த்து, அதில் இந்த அதிகாரி எதிர்த்து கூறி இருந்தால் அவர் மீது நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க சர்க்கார் தயாராக இருக்கிறதா ? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, I am afraid the hon. Leader of the Opposition is putting a hypothetical question which I am not able to answer."

*Appointment of a Headquarters Deputy Tahsildar in the South Arcot district.*

* 245 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether the Revenue Board have recommended the appointment of a Headquarters Deputy Tahsildar in South Arcot district to clear off arrears?